

Ammons' Liverworts of West Virginia*

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Although many botanists, both amateur and professional, are rather intimately acquainted with certain groups of the lower plants, such as the mosses and lichens, very few seem to have much knowledge of the liverworts, except perhaps of *Marchantia*. Over large areas of the United States, including the northeast, other hepatics are much more abundant than *Marchantia*, which after all is hardly a "typical liverwort"—being in many ways the most specialized of the entire group. Its popularity seems to rest largely on the very beautiful set of charts illustrating its structure and life history made by Kny many years ago and on the dearth of adequate treatment of the other genera of liverworts due to a paucity of books dealing with the group.

This situation is being remedied, however, and "The Liverworts of West Virginia" is a welcome addition to botanical libraries. West Virginia is obviously a happy hunting ground for the hepatics. Its rugged surface, its mountains, hills, and valleys, its waterfalls, streams, and swamps, together with its natural forest climax, all combine to furnish the types of habitats which the various members of this group of plants require. Consequently, although this is a manual devoted modestly to the hepatics of a single state, it really has a much wider application. For instance, all the genera of liverworts but two, and most of the species described by Howe in the later editions of Grout's "Mosses With a Hand Lens," are found in West Virginia, and as would be expected, there are many additional forms given for that state not included in "Grout."

The keys to both the genera and the species are based largely on vegetative characters; although many of the liverworts fruit abundantly, their sporophytes are more delicate than those of the mosses and do not persist; consequently such keys are especially helpful.

The scheme of classification used is that proposed by Evans (1939). The acrogynous *Jungermanniales* are considered first, then the anacrogynous forms, followed by the *Marchantiales* and

* A Manual of the Liverworts of West Virginia. By Nelle Ammons. 164 pp. 26 plates. University Press, Notre Dame, Ind. 1940. \$1.75.

Anthocerotales. Twenty families are listed for the Jungermanniales, including forty-six genera; the Marchantiales include three families and eight genera, while two genera in a single family are taken up in the Anthocerotales.

In each case there are genus descriptions, which give the reproductive as well as the vegetative features. The derivation of the name is also made clear, and synonyms with references are listed. In the very adequate species descriptions the gross features as well as the more obvious microscopic characters are portrayed, together with data on distribution, habitat, and additional information of interest.

Every species described is illustrated with clear line drawings, showing a habit sketch magnified three times and, for the most part, dorsal and ventral views, cellular features, spores, elaters, etc., wherever these are diagnostic or characteristic.

The book is also equipped with a glossary, an appendix explaining species names, and an extensive bibliography.

The author has prepared a volume that is at once scholarly and usable and one that merits appreciation by students of the liverworts.

Remarks made at the annual meeting of the Torrey Club by Dr. B. O. Dodge on his election as President of the Club

I am reminded this evening by the results of the election just reported, of an incident that occurred soon after we first came to New York some thirty years ago now. One day Professor Curtis, who was then acting head of the Department of Botany at Columbia, was telling me about the Torrey Botanical Club. He took me into the room next to his office where the publications of the Torrey Club were stored. He showed me volumes of the *Memoirs*, especially Salmon's Monograph of the Ersiphaceae and Griffith's Monograph of the Sordariaceae and Hazen's Ulothricaceae. He also showed me some volumes of TORREYA. He seemed to take great pride in the *Bulletin*, however. He said, "You know our *Bulletin* is one of the oldest (he may have said *the oldest*) botanical Journals in America." It is a fact, our Club is the oldest and the largest botanical organization in America that holds regular monthly